

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for continued consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 4-8 were pending in this application prior to this Reply. Claims 1, 4-7 have been amended and no claims have been canceled or added. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102/35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Great Britain Patent Application No. 2,000,687 submitted by Hanke et al. (hereinafter "Hanke"). Alternatively, the Examiner rejects Claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Hanke. In light of above amendments, Applicant submits the references fail to establish *prima facie* anticipation or obviousness, and respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, "said nozzle opening has a shape defined by at least two elongated slots disposed in parallel." The Examiner stated that Fig. 14 of Hanke teaches a nozzle opening having at least two parallel line segments, which comprises a single elongated slot. There is nothing in Hanke that teaches or suggests a nozzle opening having at least two elongated slots. Furthermore, Hanke fails to teach or suggest the use of at least two elongated slots in parallel. Therefore, Hanke fails to teach all of the features in Claim 1, and accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of this claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanke in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,308,138 issued to Woltman (hereinafter "Woltman"). The combined teachings fail to support a finding of *prima facie* obviousness. Claim 4, as currently amended, recites, *inter alia*, "said nozzle opening has a shape defined by at least two elongated slots." There is nothing in Hanke or Woltman that teaches or suggests a nozzle opening having at least two elongated slots. As Hanke and Woltman fail to teach or suggest every element of

claim 4, a *prima facie* finding of obviousness cannot be maintained. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of this claim.

With regard to dependent Claims 5-7, Applicant submits that Claims 5-7 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 4 which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore Claims 5-7 are allowable based on its dependence from Claim 4. Reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanke in view of Woltman in further view of U.S. Patent No. 2,486,019 issued to Goddard (hereinafter “Goddard”). The combined teachings fail to support a *prima facie* obviousness rejection. Claim 8 depends directly from independent Claim 4 which is allowable for the reasons set forth above. The addition of Goddard fails to cure the deficiencies of the combination of Woltman and Hanke. Therefore Claim 8 is allowable based on its dependence from Claim 4. Furthermore, Goddard teaches the use of introducing a fluid through plural ports 81 into a stream of gas (see Fig. 14), and does not support the teaching of the use of a plurality of air supply outlets, as the Examiner maintains. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of this claim.

CONCLUSION

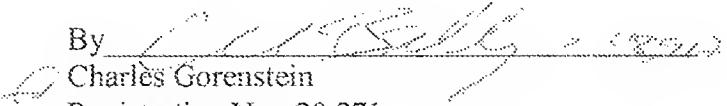
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Charles Gorenstein, Reg. No. 29,271 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Due Date: October 28, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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